

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003259

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SECURITY COUNCIL MIDDLE EAST DEBATE: EGYPT PEP TALKING
THE PLO

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR BASHIR TOLD EMBASSY CAIRO
JANUARY 5 THAT AT A JANUARY 6 MEETING FAHMY WOULD ATTEMPT
TO PERSUADE THE PLO DELEGATION TO:

--MAKE USE OF THE SC MEETING TO CARRY ON INFORMAL
CONTACTS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES; AND

--MODERATE THEIR POSITION AND LANGUAGE TO AVOID GIV-
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PAGE 02 STATE 003259

ING THE IMPRESSION OF BEING INTERESTED ONLY IN PUT-

TING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 96,
1/6.)

2. ANGOLA

A. BRITISH RECEIVE FAVORABLE REPLIES TO DEMARCHES

CONCERNING BRITISH DEMARCHES ON ANGOLA IN AFRICAN CAPITALS,
FCO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DIRECTOR MARTIN REID TOLD
EMBASSY LONDON JANUARY 5:

--ALL RESPONSES SO FAR RECEIVED, EXCEPTING TANZANIA'S,
ARE SYMPATHETIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

--MOST OF THE NATIONS APPROACHED DID NOT EXPECT THE
BRITISH VIEW TO PREVAIL AT THE OAU SUMMIT. (CONFI-
DENTIAL) LONDON 150, 1/6.)

B. THE QUESTION OF SOVIET INTENTIONS

AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI FINDS ZAMBIANS SKEPTICAL OF SOVIET
SINCERITY IN CALLING FOR AN END TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION
IN ANGOLA. NEVERTHELESS, THEY WANT TO HELP THE SOVIETS
FIND A FACE SAVING WAY OUT, SHOULD THAT PROVE FEASIBLE,
AND MAY REQUEST US ASSISTANCE IN DRAFTING A DEFINITION OF
"WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES" FOR PRESENTATION AT THE OAU SUMMIT.
EC NINE AMBASSADORS IN LUSAKA DETECT A CLEAR SHIFT IN THE
SOVIET POSITION SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF THE PRAVDA ARTICLE
CALLING FOR NON-INTERVENTION. (SECRET) LUSAKA 25 AND 30,
1/6.)

3. PORTUGAL: IMPORTANT PROGRESS ON GOVERNMENT REORGANI-
ZATION

THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT MADE WHAT EMBASSY LISBON CONSIDERS
IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN INTERNAL REORGANIZATION JANUARY 5:

--IT WAS AGREED THAT CONTROVERSIAL AGRARIAN REFORM
WOULD IN THE FUTURE BE CARRIED OUT IN STRICT ACCORD-
ANCE WITH LAW AND NOT AFFECT THE NORTH, BUT EXISTING
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PAGE 03 STATE 003259

LAND OCCUPATIONS WILL NOT BE CHALLENGED.

--THE PS AGREED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A PCP SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR AGRARIAN REFORM, BUT THE PCP FAILED TO
PRY AN INDEPENDENT TOURISM PORTFOLIO OUT OF THE
SOCIALIST CONTROLLED EXTERNAL COMMERCE MINISTRY.

--AZEVEDO ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A MINISTRY OF

HOUSING, THUS REMOVING THAT FIELD FROM COMMUNIST CONTROL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PARTIES HAVE NOW OVERCOME THE MAJOR IMPEDIMENTS TO COMPLETING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. ALL GAVE UP SOMETHING IN REACHING ACCORD.
(CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 69, 1/6.)

4. LEBANON: IRAQ SWITCHES TO SWEET REASONABLENESS

WITH THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF IRAQI MINISTER OF INFORMATION AZIZ IN THE LEBANESE DOMESTIC SITUATION, THE BAGHDAD PRESS HAS SHIFTED FROM A HAWKISH PRO-MOSLEM LINE TO ONE OF MODERATION. A WEEK AGO, THE BAGHDAD PRESS HAD BEEN ATTACKING THE SYRIAN REGIME FOR DOING JUST WHAT AZIZ IS NOW TRYING TO DO. (CONFIDENTIAL) BAGHDAD 5, 1/6.) KISSINGER

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